

----- ST REPORT INTERNATIONAL ONLINE MAGAZINE -----
"The Original 16/32bit Online Magazine"
from
STR Publishing
"

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STReport International Online Magazine
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R.F. Mariano
Publisher - Editor

Voice: 904-783-3319 10 AM - 4 PM EST

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"

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| - The Editor's Desk | - CPU Report | - PORTFOLIO NEWS |
| - INVISION ELITE! | - CT. ATARIFEST! | - BLUE RIDGE FEST! |
| - ATARI FUTURE | - C-FONT | - THAT'S WRITE 2 |
| - ACTION LASER REVIEW | - COMPOSCRIPT! | - STR Confidential |

-* FALCON IS REAL! *-
-* MBBS -> MNET DEBUT! *-
-* JOHN B. JAINSCHIGG RETURNS! *-

THE STORM IS COMING!

ST REPORT INTERNATIONAL ONLINE MAGAZINE
The Original * Independent * Online Magazine
-* FEATURING WEEKLY *-

"Accurate UP-TO-DATE News and Information"
Current Events, Original Articles, Tips, Rumors, and Information
Hardware - Software - Corporate - R & D - Imports

STReport's BBS, The Bounty, invites BBS systems, worldwide, to participate
in the Fido/TurboNet/Atari F-Net Mail Network. You may also call our BBS

direct at 904-786-4176, and enjoy the excitement of exchanging information relative to the Atari and other computers worldwide through the use of excellent International Messaging Networks. SysOps, worldwide, are quite welcome to join the STReport International Conferences. The Crossnet Code is #34813, and the "Lead Node" is # 350. All BBS systems are welcome and invited to actively participate. Support Atari Computers; Join Today!

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WHAT'S NEW IN THE ATARI FORUMS (July 03)

** NEW SYSOP IN ATARI 8-BIT FORUM **

Please join us in welcoming SYSOP*Jeff Kovach 70761,3015 to the staff of the Atari 8-Bit Forum (GO ATARI8).

FONTGDOS AVAILABLE

FONTGDOS is now available (courtesy Atari Corp) in LIBRARY 9 of the Atari Arts Forum (GO ATARIARTS) along with Bob Wilson's help file.

NEW IN ATARI VENDORS FORUM (GO ATARIVEN)

SoftLogik Publishing Corporation is pleased to announce the release of PageStream 2.2b for Atari ST/STe/TT computers!

Users of STalker version 3.01: Be sure to download STK302.LZH from LIBRARY 8 for a program that will upgrade a registered copy of STalker 3.01 to version 3.02. An original (unmodified) STalker 3.01 disk is required for the upgrade.

RECENT UPLOADS

| | | | |
|------------|------|-----------|---------------------------------------------|
| PACFIC.LZH | 183K | 03-Jul-92 | Pacific Islands Demo |
| XRDEMO.ARC | 167K | 30-Jun-92 | Dr. T's X-OR DEMO |
| STF36.LZH | 4K | 30-Jun-92 | July ST Format Contents, issue 36 |
| UVKILL.LZH | 91K | 03-Jul-92 | Ultimate Virus Killer (DEMO) |
| MNET13.ARC | 109K | 03-Jul-92 | MichTron BBS - Networking supported w/MNET! |
| EMPUS1.LZH | 2K | 03-Jul-92 | Patches TEMPUS II to use normal fselectors |
| DIARYB.ARC | 11K | 03-Jul-92 | DIARY v 2.4B Very Small Text Editor ACC/PRG |

ATARIA.TXT 8K 03-Jul-92 A Dealers view of Atari
 ASTROL.LZH 269K 03-Jul-92 Astrology program
 LZHZ1L.LZH 70K 01-Jul-92 LZHZ01L.LZH Latest update to LZHZ01x
 CQREF.ARC 9K 03-Jul-92 Calligrapher Quick Reference prg/acc
 SLDEMO.LZH 523K 01-Jul-92 New Calamus SL DEMO Version
 PG22B.LZH 292K 01-Jul-92 PGST22B.LZH - PageStream 2.1->PageStream 2.2b

*** NEW FOR THE PORTFOLIO ***

The ULTIMATE PORTFOLIO DEMO is now available in LIBRARY 17 of the Atari Portfolio Forum (GO APORTFOLIO), courtesy Don Thomas and Atari Corp. (This demo runs on a PC, not on the Portfolio) Superb graphics and suitable for an in-store self-running demo/promotion.

THE ATARI PORTFOLIO FORUM ON COMPUSERVE
 HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AN
 OFFICIAL SUPPORT SITE BY ATARI CORPORATION

"GO APORTFOLIO TO ACCESS THE ATARI PORTFOLIO FORUM"

> From the Editor's Desk "Saying it like it is!"
 "*****"

Atari's future is something to seriously ponder these days. One can't help but wonder if, with the advent of the new machines.. ie., The Falcon, Sparrow or whatever; "will the new products have the right 'send-off'? STReport's entire staff wants to see Atari enjoy a monumental success in the release of its new machines. This is the beginnings of Atari's NEW ERA. The Falcon and its successors show all the promise we've desired in machines from Atari for quite some time.

Atari's Director of Communications, Bob Brodie continues "demanding" that users on _CIS_ use EMAIL to tell him they "love" him, sadly, the entire scenario is fast becoming the _joke_ of the year. Head Sysop Ron Luks' made his desires known, (shown elsewhere in this issue), that users on CIS respond both in email and in public for all to see, as it is happening on most other services. What is wrong with conducting an information gathering poll in public for all to see? After all, the results are bound to "touch" all of us. On top of which we find officious appearing statements being presented by the "Director of Communications" that are not in the least complimentary to any of the parties concerned.

For example, Brodie _claims_ in his editorial published this week;
 "At this point, I'm sorry to report that the response on CompuServe has been pathetic...far and away the lowest number of respondents on any network." ...FROM ATARI EXPLORER ONLINE #9205

Any number of users who frequent all the services, just as Brodie does, will find the above statement difficult to believe. Many observers seem to find the response on CompuServe is more than likely comparable to that on GENIE with Delphi close behind. As for the private hobby networks, the reaction is mainly having little or, as in most cases, no response either way. Director Brodie's recent actions appear to be an

embarrassment which all Atarians must unfairly to bear. Perhaps its time for the Director to spend more time communicating about the new products and less time with the obvious "obsession". The major online services such as, GENie, Compuserve and Delphi along with the hobby networks and the loyal Atari users who subscribe to these services deserve Atari's support on the major services of their choice, not that users must make a pilgrimage and "go to Atari." Without a doubt, the loyal Atarians, worldwide, deserve much better treatment than this.

On happier note, the userbase is being treated to a generous amount of new programs debuting in the USA for the Atari ST/STe/TT computer platform. This is a breath of fresh air. Please keep an eye on STReport as we will be reviewing all these great new programs over the next few months. Of course, the entire home computing industry is waiting patiently for the official debut of the new Falcon'030. By all standards we have become accustomed to, this is going to be a very powerful and highly affordable new machine. Atari Advantage Hard Copy Magazine is going to have a large spread dedicated to the new Falcon in their June/July Issue. The moment of truth is at hand <grin> get out those back issues of STReport and see if we had the stats right. Have a safe and glorious Fourth!

Ralph @ STReport International Online Magazine

Today, the third of July, is my birthday, I made fifty! Nicer than that my first born son Ralph, is now 29. Sorry, I had to 'brag' just a little. :-)

STReport's Staff

DEDICATED TO SERVING YOU!

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AMIGA DIVISION

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IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please, submit letters to the editor, articles, reviews, etc...
via E-Mail to:

Compuserve..... 70007,4454
GENie..... ST.REPORT
Delphi..... RMARIANO
BIX..... RMARIANO
FIDONET..... 112/35
FNET..... NODE 350
NEST..... 90:19/350.0

> CPU STATUS REPORT

LATE BREAKING INDUSTRY-WIDE NEWS

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Issue #27

Compiled by: Lloyd E. Pulley, Sr.

-- Atari Finally Gives Up

Atari Corp. has withdrawn its appeal of a jury verdict and judgement in a federal antitrust case, according to Nintendo of American Inc. In exchange for Atari withdrawing its appeal, Nintendo says that it "will not proceed with its request to recover certain court costs from Atari."

Nintendo, which dropped its exclusive contracts in 1990, now controls 80% of the U.S. home video game market, while Atari has about 12%.

-- PC Prices Fall 20-40% in Two Weeks

PC prices have dropped 20-40% in the last two weeks according to Channel Marketing (CM), a Texas research firm. While this is good news for the consumers, the news isn't viewed as favorably by retailers who are having to develop plans to double or triple sales to make up for the lost revenue.

CM says, "Although PC manufacturers will share in the pain of lower profits, computer retailers will bear the greatest burden at a time when their profits are already squeezed. For every computer a retailer sold prior to the slash in prices, they must now sell 1.43 systems to gener-

ate equivalent gross profit dollars. This assumes an average price decrease of 30%."

In a separate study, the company estimates unit sales of computer systems will increase by 25% over 1991 unit sales, with the biggest factor being declining prices.

--Compaq Offers Printer Line

Compaq Computer Corp. is getting into the printer business with units unveiled later this year to be connected to networks of PCs. The first models to be released will be laser printers, with models based on other printer technology coming later.

-- DEC Joins Low-End Price Fight

Digital Equipment Corp. (DEC), has joined Compaq and Dell in introducing a lower-priced system. Under the new pricing plan, Digital's entry-level PC316 will sell for \$1,249, including hard drive and monitor. Sources say that DEC lost \$294 million in the last quarter but its PC sales have been growing.

IBM is expected to announce sharp reductions in its PC prices later this summer.

-- Borland Ships 2.5 Million Quattro Pros

Quattro Pro, Borland's spreadsheet application software, has hit the 2.5 million unit mark, according to Borland.

Borland quotes the Software Publishers Association in saying Quattro Pro had 30% of the North American spreadsheet market in 1991 and 25% of the world spreadsheet market in the same year. The company's 1992 estimates are its North American market share is the same, but its world share is up to 26%.

-- Sun Top US Exporter According to Fortune

Sun Microsystems once again was Fortune magazine's No. 1 US exporter, as a percentage of total sales. Total Sun sales for the 1991 calendar year were listed as \$3.259 billion, of which 49.3% or \$1.606 billion was from outside the United States. In terms of overall export dollars, Sun moved to the number 19 spot in 1991, from the number 30 spot in 1990, behind companies many times larger in size.

-- TI 4-meg VRAM Introduced

Texas Instruments announced the introduction of its 4-meg video random access memory (VRAM) which is said to be the first in the electronics Industry.

TI has optimized the high density VRAM to deliver what it calls superior graphics performance that workstation designers demand, while keeping chip costs low enough to make it attractive to manufacturers of high-end personal computers as well.

TI's 4-meg VRAM is expected to be a cost-effective memory alternative at PC video display resolutions as low as 1,024 x 768 x 4 bits per pixel. This resolution and color combination is one of the fastest growing segments of the PC video market. To address this market, many manufacturers are developing Windows accelerators - PC add-in boards that are designed to boost Windows' graphics performance.

In addition to improving performance, designers who use 4 Mb VRAMs will be able to reduce the size and power dissipation of systems that are implemented with less sophisticated memories, TI says. By using denser memories, they can expect to increase system reliability, and reduce component and manufacturing costs.

-- Maxtor Intros 340MB 3.5-inch Disk Drive

Maxtor Corp. released its 340-meg MXT-340 inch-high 3.5-inch Winchester disk drive this week. The company claims that the MXT-340 uses the same components and features and offers the same seek times and data transfer rates as its parent drives, the inch-high MXT-540, which provides 540MB formatted storage capacity, and the full-height MXT-1240, which offers 1.2 gigabytes (GB) of storage.

According to the company the MXT-340 has a low average seek time of 8.5 ms and achieves full 'Fast' SCSI II compliance through the use of SCSI (Small Computer System Interface) controller chips. According to Maxtor, this allows the drive to achieve a SCSI bus transfer rate of 10MB per second and a maximum disk transfer rate of more than 40 megabits (Mbits) per second.

The high transfer rate is accomplished with a disk spin rate of 6,300 revolutions per minute (RPM) that yields an average rotational latency rate of only 4.76ms, according to Maxtor.

The MXT-340 carries an OEM (original equipment manufacturing) evaluation unit pricing of \$895, with products to become available to OEMs at the end of July. The company plans for volume production to begin in the third quarter of calendar 1992.

:HOW TO GET YOUR OWN GENIE ACCOUNT:

To sign up for GENie service:

Set your communications software to Half Duplex (or Local Echo)
Call: (with modem) 800-638-8369.

Upon connection type HHH (RETURN after that).
Wait for the U#= prompt.

Type: XTX99587,CPUREPT then, hit RETURN.

GENie costs only \$4.95 a month for unlimited evening and weekend access to more than 100 services including electronic mail, online encyclopedia, shopping, news, entertainment, single-player games, and bulletin boards on leisure and professional subjects. With many other services, including the biggest collection of files to download and the best online games, for only \$6 per hour.

MONEY BACK GUARANTEE! Any time during your first month of membership if you are not completely satisfied, just ask for your \$4.95 back.

GENie Announcements (FREE)

1. Friday, July 3, is a GENie Holiday.....
2. There's a few GENie Mugs left.....*ORDER
3. Hmm .. Can I get a trademark on [YOUR-PRODUCT-NAME-HERE]...TRADEMARKS
4. D&B Company Profiles . Now Available Via GENie.....D&BPROFILES
5. Coming July 1: There's =MORE= on the Coast.....*LEFT
6. Summer's here and the time is right - for a tournament in.. BACKGAMMON
7. GEN CON/Origins - Register Online.....TSR
8. Get REAL BARGAINING POWER for car & truck buying.....AUTOQUOT-R
9. Get the BIG BOOK online & get \$6 merchandise certificate.....SEARS
10. Multiplayer Gaming is FREE This Weekend in.....ORBWARS
11. Online Quilters Patriotic Quilt Show....Washington DC.....*HOBBY
12. REGISTER Now For Your SUMMER COURSES.....CALC
13. HURRY before it's too late.....SOFTCLUB
14. NEW: Locate SBA MICROLOAN Sources by State.....DIRECTORY
15. Live from Rome, Italy every Sunday (5 p.m. Eastern).....GERMANY

Atari Roundtable Weekly News

=STAFF NEWS=

Atari Roundtable is proud to announce and welcome the addition of Charlie Townsley [C.TOWNSLEY], Robert Glover [R.GLOVER3], and Gordon Meyer [GRMEYER] to the RT Staff. They will be working in the library and helping out in the other areas.

= FROM THE BANNER =

At last, the new DEMO version of Calamus SL has arrived, compiled June 1992!! Almost a year since the last DEMO was uploaded, ISD and DMC are proud to bring you a look at a truly excellent, professional desktop publishing system that remains an ATARI only product! D/L file #24684.

**** Calamus SL is fully supported in CATegory 16, TOPic 20. ****

Last Month's Top Downloaded Programs/Utilities:

```
-----
24310 FONTGDOS.LZH          X BOB-BRODIE   920531  462848    618  20
    Desc: FontGDOS, complete with drivers
24292 POOLF92.LZH          X V.PATRICELL1 920530   16128    367   2
    Desc: Update of PoolFix fixes all bugs!
24439 GVIEW1.LZH (LH5)LZH  X R.BROWN30   920609  256384    236  28
    Desc: MAJOR Upgrade: JPEG, COLOR support!
```

| | | | | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------------|-------------|--------|--------|-----|----|
| 24594 | MACREAD.ARC | X T.KROFTA | 920623 | 19840 | 234 | 2 |
| | Desc: read mac disks on an Atari | | | | | |
| 24411 | COXCALC.LZH (LH5)LZH | X E.KRIMEN | 920607 | 10496 | 227 | 2 |
| | Desc: Calculator CPX. | | | | | |
| 24539 | ICONS.LZH (LH5)LZH | X ST.REPORT | 920617 | 22272 | 219 | 19 |
| | Desc: * Super Icon Collection - NEWDESK * | | | | | |
| 24519 | STKR_302.LZH (LH5)LZH | X GRIBNIF | 920614 | 121344 | 217 | 7 |
| | Desc: Upgrade STalker 3.01 to 3.02 | | | | | |

Last Week's Top Downloaded Programs/Utilities:

| | | | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------------------------|--------------|--------|--------|-----|---|
| 24594 | MACREAD.ARC | X T.KROFTA | 920623 | 19840 | 234 | 2 |
| | Desc: read mac disks on an Atari | | | | | |
| 24573 | WHATIS61.LZH | X W.PIKE | 920620 | 19328 | 133 | 2 |
| | Desc: What is Version 6.1 more files IDed | | | | | |
| 24567 | SPIRIT2.ARC | X L.DOWDLE1 | 920620 | 117248 | 99 | 2 |
| | Desc: SpiritEd, Desk Accessory Text Editor | | | | | |
| 24635 | RECIPE31.LZH (LH5) | X A.WATSON6 | 920625 | 63360 | 93 | 2 |
| | Desc: RECIPE DATA BASE | | | | | |
| 24585 | JUMPST26.LZH (LH5)LZH | X P.LEFEBVRE | 920622 | 29184 | 92 | 2 |
| | Desc: JumpSTART 2.6 Alternate Desktop | | | | | |
| 24565 | KV_ADDUP.LZH (LH1) | X K.KRESSIN | 920620 | 79616 | 91 | 9 |
| | Desc: animated math game, 4-8 yrs | | | | | |

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> BATMAN RETURNS! STR FOCUS! COMPUTER COMIC BOOKS?
" " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " " "

BETTER COMICS
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by Dana P. Jacobson

Earlier in the week, the Boston Globe newspaper had an item in their "Names and Faces" column which discussed some recent work by Rick Keene, a local Atari user who has been featured in STReport on numerous occasions because of his unique use of his Atari system. In light of the fact that the movie, "Batman Returns", is such a big hit these days, we thought that you'd find this piece interesting.

Holy airbrush, batfans! While "Batman Returns" continues to clean up at the box office, Natick (MA) computer artist Rick Keene is flapping his wings over publications of "The Dark Knight Archives, Vol. 1," an anthology of 1940s-era Batman strips that Keene helped restore to their original luster.

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------|---|
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| | developments in the world of Atari. | |
| o | | o |

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Editor Note;

At last, the truth be known, just remember folks where you read about the Falcon first.. over a year ago in our crystal ball feature. Be sure to give Atari Advantage a try, its a first class USA publication right up there with AIM, Current Notes and Informer.

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IMPORTANT NOTICE!  
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STReport International Online Magazine is available every week in the ST Advantage on DELPHI. STReport readers are invited to join DELPHI and become a part of the friendly community of Atari enthusiasts there.

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Software Development with STraight FAX! "FAXing on the ST" will the seminar to show and answer questions

Exhibitor's who have already made a commitment to attend include (Alphabetical Listing):

|                                                                  |                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Accusoft-ST (Michael Cooper) .....                               | PD/Shareware Software                                                                        |
| Applied Audio Marketing, Inc.<br>(Bob Edsall, John Spencer)..... | Atari Southeast<br>Regional Rep Firm                                                         |
| Atari Computer Corporation (Mike Groh) .....                     |                                                                                              |
| ABC Solutions (Peter Zalesak) .....                              | Publisher ST2, First<br>Word, First Graph,<br>tbxCAD, Kuma's<br>KSpread4/Lite                |
| Clear Thinking (Craig Harvey) .....                              | EdHak                                                                                        |
| CodeHead Software (John Eidsvoog) .....                          | Midi Spy, TOS Extension<br>Card, Megapaint II Pro,<br>Hotwire, G+Plus,<br>LookIt/PopIt, etc. |
| Computer STudio .....                                            | Visit a 'real' Atari<br>Dealership in the mall                                               |
| DSA (Robert Dytmire & David Munsie) .....                        | GP Graphics Engine -<br>New product unveiling!                                               |
| Goldleaf Publishing (John Fox) .....                             | Wordflair II, Didot,<br>Retouche, Sherlock,<br>etc.                                          |
| Joppa Software Development (Mark Carver)                         | Straight FAX!<br>"FAXing on the ST"                                                          |
| KAUG (Knoxville Atari Users Group) .....                         | P/D Library Disks                                                                            |
| KAUG (Seminar by Erik White) .....                               | "Beginning MIDI"                                                                             |
| Lexicor Software (John Cole) .....                               | Desktop Video Software                                                                       |
| Maxwell CPU (Julie Reyes) .....                                  | Silhouette                                                                                   |
| Reed Mountain Press (Don Terp) .....                             | Desktop Publishing<br>Seminar                                                                |
| Software Development Systems (Scott Sanders).                    | NewDesk Icon Editor<br>CPX, Printer<br>Utilities Pak                                         |
| ST Report/ABCO Computer (Ralph Mariano) .....                    | Seminar on current<br>events in the Atari<br>marketplace.                                    |
| Steinberg-Jones .....                                            | MIDI (Cubase, etc.)                                                                          |
| Step Ahead Software (Nevin Shalit) .....                         | Tracker ST (Nevin is<br>Current IAAD Pres.)                                                  |
| Twilight Zone Software (Wayne Watson) .....                      | Transcendence BBS<br>software.                                                               |
| Willard Productions (Clifton Willard) .....                      | Professional Desktop<br>Video                                                                |
| WorldComm (Ralph Roberts) .....                                  | Author of several<br>computer books incl.<br>"Computer Viruses"<br>and hint books            |

Seminar Schedule:

|       |                                               |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 12:00 | Don Terp from Read Mountain Press             |
| 1:00  | Joppa Software Development "FAXing on the ST" |
| 2:00  | Erik White "Beginning MIDI"                   |
| 3:00  |                                               |
| 4:00  | Ralph Mariano "Current events in the Atari    |

Marketplace"

5:00 Mike Groh (Atari)

Showtimes are 10am - 6pm.

Advance registration is only \$2, or \$3 at the door. Door prize winners will be selected from registered guests. Advance registration checks should be made out to "BRACE" and mailed to:

Cliff Allen/BRACE  
c/o Computer Studio  
Westgate Shopping Center  
40 Westgate Parkway - Suite D  
Asheville, NC 28806

A Southern-style banquet will follow the show at the Pisgah View Ranch. This will definitely be somewhat different from the usual semi-formal type hotel affairs of the other shows, and will be a real down-home, country party in the mountains!

Dinner will be served family-style..... as long as you keep eating, they'll keep serving! And check out the menu:

|                      |                |               |
|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Tossed Salad         | Country Ham    | Fried Chicken |
| Cornbread Dressing   | Rice and Gravy | Green Beans   |
| Sweet Potato Souffle | Homemade Rolls | Beverages     |
| Homemade desserts    |                |               |

After dinner, there will be live entertainment in the air-conditioned barn, guaranteed to bring out the 'country' in everyone! There's also volleyball and shuffleboard if anyone still has the energy after the excitement of the show. Or how about just sitting on the porch and enjoying our clean mountain air.

Advance reservations are required for the Blue Ridge AtariFest Banquet as seating space is limited to 100 people. Cost is \$17.50 per person (children under 6 are half-price). If you're planning on attending, please return the following reservation form along with your payment check as soon as possible.

=====

BLUE RIDGE ATARIFEST '92 - BANQUET RESERVATION FORM:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: (        ) \_\_\_\_\_

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults @ \$17.50 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Children under 6 @ \$8.75 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED ..... \$\_\_\_\_\_

Banquet tickets and a map of directions to the Pisgah View Ranch will be mailed to those with confirmed reservations.



- .GIF - Graphics Interchange Format, with color support
- .MAC - MacPaint format
- .R01 - Raw mono raster data
- .CVG - Calamus Vector Graphic format More formats will be supported in the next release.

INVISION Elite supports color Degas and .GIF files and it allows you to select from two different types of grays for conversion. It also lets you select the size of the resulting conversion. Each color pixel may be assigned up to 64 pixels, for stunningly clear color conversions.

.CVG files can be loaded in at any size, with the option to correct the aspect ratio.

Files may also be loaded in using the Atari Clipboard. A desk accessory is included with INVISION Elite that enables you to load images from any GEM program via the clipboard. Transferring images has never been this easy.

INVISION's interface works in a way that is fast, and easy to understand. Most commands can be accessed from the keyboard or from the Icon Bar. The Icon bar is a column of icons down the left side of the screen. Selecting an icon opens a row of icons. It is just like the menu bar, only it works vertically and it uses icons. It is very easy and fast because it works like your eye does when you read.

The interface also incorporates instant access panning. This means that whatever you are doing, you can move the image to wherever you want to be, without having to go over to the scroll bars. When you hold the right mouse button and drag the mouse, the image moves in realtime.

There is also a fully configurable snap function, horizontal and vertical locking, continually displayed co-ordinates in pixels or inches.

- Gradient fills and Gradient ellipses
- Image bending
- Custom patterns
- Instant access panning (scrolling)
- Multiple windows
- Bezier curves
- Block masking
- Outlining
- Smoothing
- Rotation, Skewing, Scaling, and Flipping
- Atari clipboard support
- Multitasking support (works properly with desk accessories)
- Unlimited size color .GIF importing
- Built-in font editing and styling

A few of the things the others don't do:

- Image bending (bend any image along a bezier curve)
- Multiple images displayed at the same time(in windows)
- Fully GEM compatible(read as MultiTOS)
- Use any image as a pattern(any size)
- Masking
- Outlining
- Thickening, Thinning
- Smoothing
- White/Black Dot removal



"Have they released the ST book in the UK?. Here it is just a rumor and an overpriced and underpowered one at that."

Larry Green also mirrored some of my thoughts when he posted:

"Before you pay out for the ST book, give STacey a rethink! I have seen them selling in the UK shows for under UKP 500! That was for 2Mb/40HD. I know that battery life was a nightmare, but it's nearly a 3rd of the price."

I guess we will have to wait and see if the rumor that the ST BOOK is being re-worked to include a back-lit display and faster CPU. When/if the news breaks, I'll be sure to include it in People... Are Talking.

Meanwhile, although People in-the-know have stated that TOS 2.05 (Mega STE version) would not correctly support high density floppy disks (1.44 meg) and that 2.06 is the "lowest" version to support them, several people have reported that their machines bearing both TOS 2.05 and high density drives work perfectly.

Rob Huggins posts:

"Confirming that my MegaSTE has TOS 2.05 and a functioning high density (1.4M) disk drive (also functioning hard drives<g>). I think the matter of a HD floppy is more related to the disk controller chip than to the TOS version."

Jeff Kovach says:

"I'm thoroughly confused. I too had heard that TOS 2.06 something was needed to use a HD floppy. But, my new Mega STE has TOS 2.05 and a HD floppy. And it's working fine. Can anyone offer the truth on this subject?"

Ian Braby joins in the fun:

"I think the real point is that for a MegaSTE to use an HD floppy you need, not only TOS 2.06 (TOS 2.05 doesn't allow for 1.44Mb formatting) PLUS the AJAX floppy controller (rather than the usual WD chip). Only this combination, I'm assured, will work; testified to by the fact that the "official" (and, so far in the UK, totally unobtainable) HD floppy upgrade kit includes not only the drive, but replacement TOS 2.06 and AJAX chip."

Jeff Kovach counters with:

"My new Mega STE has TOS 2.05 and formats to 1.44Mb from desktop with NO problems. (Please don't tell my computer it shouldn't work!) And, using FCOPY, I've been able to format up to 1.8Mb. We are all confused!"

Clive Parker relays his experiences with high density disks:

"I use a Mega STE which has the Ajax chip and 1.44 Mbyte drive and have had no problems with it except for the fact that I am able to format a normal 720k disk to 1.44 without any objections from TOS 2.6. I have informed Atari UK and their technical support chap is doing some tests to check it out. I have a High Density interface and a Panasonic 1.44 drive in one of my home machines and TOS 2.6 will not let me format a 720k disk to 1.44Mb. I am using an elCo interface

(from Germany) and I am thrashing my poor old WD1772 at 16Mhz. I have also installed TOS 2.06 in my STE and added a 68000 expansion port to enable the Ajax chip does not care if you use 720K disks or HD floppies with the extra hole. Atari did this deliberately. Besides, everyone knows that the only difference between a DSDD disk and a HD one is that the HD one is tested and guaranteed to work, while the DSDD one is not, but will work 90% of the time anyway, and costs MUCH less."

Jeff Kovach explains about the "regular" density floppies:

"The Ajax chip does not care if you use 720K disks or HD floppies with the extra hole. Atari did this deliberately. Besides, everyone knows that the only difference between a DSDD disk and a HD one is that the HD one is tested and guaranteed to work, while the DSDD one is not, but will work 90% of the time anyway, and costs MUCH less."

But, as with all things, there is a problem. Intersect Software explains:

"Jeff, the MEDIA (oxide coating the disk) is different on a HD disk. It's similar to metal tape vs. regular oxide for audio. The drive indeed cares which is being used! While it's possible to format a 1.44 disk 720K you should not format a 720K disk to 1.44. It's not reliable. Try recording a metal tape with a tape recorder that doesn't support it. The sound quality is terrible. Also try recording to a standard tape with Metal bias turned on. Sound level will be very low. While you are correct that the Ajax chip might not care, the drive AUTOMATICALLY looks for the HD disk hole and changes bias accordingly. The drive also sends this information through one of the lines back to the Ajax chip so that it knows it's not supposed to format a 720 K disk to 1.44."

For those of us interested in emulating an ST on their boss's DOS machine, Darek Mihocka, the creator of QuickST and now of the Gemulator, tells us that we don't have to wait for a computer show to see the Gemulator:

By the way, the Gemulator demo video is now being shipped out. It's 28 minutes long and answers many questions about Gemulator as well as showing off its features. So if you can't make it to one of our demos at Glendale, WAACE, or other shows, it's a bargain at \$5 (tape and postage included!). Send the \$5 to Branch Always Software, 14150 NE 20th St, #302, Bellevue, WA 98007 We're shipping the tapes 2nd day air, so you'll get them fast. Great for showing off to Atari user groups. Tony of GST Software asks:

What about for the UK? Does it handle things like the Cyber stuff?

Darek replies:

"It should. I haven't tested any of the Cyber programs specifically but other related programs like Degas, Degas Elite, Prism Paint, and CAD 3-D 2.0 all run fine."

Now the question on everyone's mind, upon hearing about the Gemulator, from Tony at GST Software:

"So, is it purely software & how much, how do I get it in the UK and what hardware does it require."

Darek fills us all in:

"Tony, no, Gemulator is both hardware and software. The 68000 emulation is done in software, while the plug in card takes care of holding the TOS ROMs. You can plug in up to 4 different TOS ROMs on each card and have multiple cards plugged in to the same PC. So you can literally have every single version of TOS ever released plugged in to your PC, and Gemulator puts up a menu when you run it allowing you to select which TOS you want to boot up with. Of course, you can at any time pop the menu back up and reboot with a different TOS or even switch from color to mono, or mono to color. It's all demo'ed in the video. If you get any American magazines look for the Gemulator ad, or email me your mailing address and I'll send you our newsletter.

Sysop Ron Luks, ever vigilant, says:

"Darek:

"I wanted to give you a call, but can't seem to find your number anywhere. (Please send it to me via EMAIL).

I enjoyed the GEMulator demo very much. (But my wife says you should have worn a tie. [grin]) I thought the full screen shots of the GEMulator screen were the most effective selling points. GEMulator really does seem to run as fast, or faster than a stock Atari on your system. congrats!

One thing that was noticeably absent, even when I watched the demo for a 2nd and 3rd time, was any hard disk icons when you were displaying the GEM desktop.

I'm \*sure\* you're going to support the HD on the PC and not just the floppies, but I was wondering why the HD icon wasn't showing?"

Darek sets all of our minds at ease:

"The hard disk will be supported in time for the release in September. Remember that the video was shot over a month ago using an earlier version of Gemulator. The version in beta testing right now has just about everything already in it except hard disk support. The printer support work, so you can run Pagestream or Calamus, load in a file, edit it, and print it out on your PC printer. Once hard disk support is finished, it'll be ready to ship. I'm having a few hundred boards made up this month just in case it is ready early, so that I'll be able to make Gemulator available at the Connecticut show in August."

Since I will be at the Connecticut AtariFest in August, I'll make it a point to scope out this, the first ST emulator for DOS machines, and let you know how it looks. Stay tuned! And now a quick word about the Connecticut show:

"MOMENTUM BUILDS FOR CONNECTICUT ATARIFEST '92 AS EXHIBITOR LINE-UP GROWS WINDSOR LOCKS, Conn. (May 13, 1992) - Eleven NEW companies have agreed this week to participate in Connecticut AtariFest '92, a two-day event scheduled for August 15-16, 1992 at the Sheraton Hotel here. The firms, representing computer software developers, authorized retail dealers and the trade media of the Atari community, are the latest exhibitors to join the line-up for the Hartford area show, now in its second year. Show organizers have received tentative word that the following exhibitors will attend the Hartford show: ABC Solutions, A & D Software, Atari Interface Magazine, Branch Always Software, The



"IS ANYBODY IN CHARGE HERE?"  
=====

by Intersect Software

This is in response to a letter uploaded to CIS:

>> One of the little pins on my MMU chip broke off chip,  
>> and the chip would not function correctly. The service  
>> center had no replacement available.

The service center should have had one of those chips in stock.  
I can understand that they may have had a run on them or one of  
their employees forgot to reorder.

>> and they had no idea when they would be able to obtain one.

That is probably true. My experience with Atari parts varies, I've  
received parts in as little as two weeks sometimes it takes longer.

One of the reasons for the delay is that all parts must be ordered  
by invoice and include a check for the full amount of the order. This  
adds 4 days (mail) to the order time.

Someone in Atari won't allow COD orders, this in my mind is a MAJOR  
problem!!!!!!

Atari has only one parts department for the US and it is located in  
California, parts shipped from there take 7-8 days to reach the east  
coast (or Florida).

{It would be nice, but not necessary, if Atari would relocate closer to  
the center of the US. Many California companies are moving from there  
to Tenn. and states in the SOUTH east. The cost of living in these  
states is very low (compared with California) and the school systems  
have vastly improved in the last 10 years.}

Parts can be ordered UPS BLUE, 2 day shipment time from anywhere in  
the US to any other point in the US. This adds apx \$7 to the cost.

>>A message base should also be available so that experiences and  
>>ideas can be exchanged among technicians. The number for this BBS's

>>would only be given to Authorized Atari Service Centers.

Atari has a BBS that supports the Tech with Part #'s, prices, tech  
tips, etc. It requires a password and authorization to use it.

It was a very good idea but Atari is understaffed and it is not well  
SYSOPed, timely or complete. There should be a way to correct that.  
Authorize sysops outside of Atari "proper" to support some of the  
areas in the BBS.

Atari REQUIRED that new dealers also support MS-DOS machines. There

are in my mind several reasons for this: The store would have more traffic, a larger customer base, (Atari only stores are generally going out of business in the US which is a DOS only country) and more interaction with the computer industry (less inbred).

I would add one more requirement, that they have a BBS supporting the MS-DOS and Atari computers. On this BBS should be PD software, utilities, DEMO software, lists of Commercial software available with pricing, lists of hardware available with prices, local dealer numbers by city and state, message base containing a HELP area as well as a "GOSSIP" area about future Atari hardware.

Atari should help with ASCII files on THEIR BBS => Hardware, Software and dealer lists as well as DEMO software.

If you have been a dealer for Atari for several years they you would have received a Dealer list, a customer list and a MIDI product list. Atari has been planning a CD-ROM with DEMO software for the last two years.

The problem is that it's not current, sporadic and is not being implemented by Dealers.

>>Each Authorized Atari Service Center should be easily identified  
>>by the consumer, perhaps with a sticker for the front door.

I've had an Atari Sticker on my front window for two years!

>>All service centers should have up-to-date information for each  
>>computer Atari makes.

Until the release of the TT and STE, I had up to date information on all Atari products except the Atari Modem (not cost effective to repair a \$19.00 modem) and the Atari laser.

>>Another problem that needs to be addressed is advertising.

Atari is constantly knocked for lack of advertising. I personally think that advertising dollars are wasted in the US unless there is a specific market to target.

Atari is advertising in DTP and Music magazines. Their new Falcon (or whatever it is going to be called) lends itself to University LAB applications, DTP HIGH end, MUSIC, Medical imaging and doppler sonar.

Lets wait and see what happens when the Falcon is released.

>>Another way Atari can help its retailers (and itself) become  
>>more well known is by giving its retailers a kit containing  
>>suggestions on how to promote Atari computers in their store.

>>There could be explanations of how to run an Atari day with  
>>demonstrations of various programs, a floppy disk with desktop  
>>publishing materials for creating advertisements with both  
>>Pagestream and Calamus, demonstrations of MIDI music, and other  
>>things that will make customer sit up and take notice.

An excellent idea! One that should help the smaller dealer support the Atari properly. They have released disks at the various COMDEX shows but it's been sporadic to dealers who don't attend.

>>we have seen that Supra Corporation has announced it will cease  
>>making Atari specific products.

SUPRA will have no product to sell for the new ATARI computers starting with the TT, Falcon and any new Atari products as these support "off the shelf" components, HD's etc.

```
>>aware that you can get Word Perfect for the Atari, that we have
>>two very fully featured spreadsheet programs, VIP Professional
>>and LDW Power, that rival anything on the MS DOS market, and
>>visually blow Lotus 1-2-3 right out of the water, for less
>>money too.
```

This is an example of inbreeding, there are several version of Lotus 123 and LDW is indeed better than the first two. The third version is more powerful than LDW.

There are over 20 million PC's in use ( don't know the exact number) but only 5 million or so, the 386SX and above, are more powerful than the ST.

Software authors have put GREAT effort into breaking the barriers that are imposed by DOS and have succeeded. The software available for a PC is amazing.

What sets the Atari apart is that 87 we had software very much similar to what is being touted for the PC today, 5 years later. The TOP end software for the PC requires a MINIMUM hardware collection of a: 25 Mhz 386 DX, 4 megs of memory, VGA color, 80 meg HD and mouse. And with that MINIMUM it's only slightly faster than a ST when running windows.

In summary Atari MANAGEMENT is guilty of not following through. They have supported their computers and hardware but not consistently! Management can't just drop by when they hear of a problem or once every couple of months. Employees need to be inspired....if they are to consistently PERFORM. This is managements job!!!!!!

We hear of new computers to be released soon, we can only hope that they are released SOON and in QUANTITY at a price that will again make the ATARI a "POWER without the PRICE" computer AGAIN.

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> STR Portfolio News & Information
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Keeping up to date...

THE ATARI PORTFOLIO FORUM  
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On CompuServe!

by Judith Hamner 72257,271

BJ Gleason and Don Messerli have developed a method for adding menus to batch files to make your simple batch files look like the pros. MENU.ZIP contains the source code from their article in the May/June 1992 issue of Atari Explorer Magazine. The article is entitled "Portfolio Programming: Batch Files Menus and File Selectors".

The mysterious absence of Don Thomas from the forum has now been explained. Don was hard at work on his latest masterpiece. Don has devised the ultimate Portfolio demo. This program runs on a PC equipped with at least 640k mem, a 286 and VGA. It also supports Sound Blaster, but it is not required. The demo is perfect for anyone shopping for a palmtop. It is also good for use in stores. Portfolio fans will also be interested in seeing the marvels of their favorite palmtop on display. PDEMO.ZIP contains over 65 files which make up the demo and is quite large. PDEMO.DOC contains only the docs for those who may want more information before downloading.

Excitement is building in anticipation of the Connecticut AtariFest. The show is scheduled for Aug. 15-16. LINEUP.TXT contains the latest list of participants. This list is periodically updated as new exhibitors join. It also contains information on how to contact the show organizers. Early birds can pre-register and get a discount on tickets. The information is contained in the files EARLYB.TXT and CAF6.TXT. The organizers want to make sure they don't lose you. Three files give details on travel arrangements. CTAIR.TXT contains all of the phone numbers and info you'll need to make arrangements for arriving by air. BYCAR.TXT contains driving instructions and phone numbers to call for help. RAILS.TXT contains info on bus and train travel.

ST2POR.TXT is a reprint of an article from the July 92 issue of Atari Interface. It provides detailed instructions for bootstrapping a terminal from the ST to the Portfolio for the first time.

INPUT.ZIP is a batch file utility by Don Messerli. It will allow you to pop up a text edit box for user input. The input can then be user as an environment variable for use in the batch file. This is another program written at the request of a forum user.

Lee Mann has uploaded two useful utility programs to enhance the built-in diary application. DRYPRG.ZIP will help you keep your .dry program clean. The program will purge all entries from previous months and place them in separate files by month and year for archiving. TMW11.ZIP contains version 1.1 of the utility to display today's and tomorrows appointments without going to the diary application.

FIRE.TXT contains a testimonial letter from a survivor of the East Bay Hills fire. Uploaded by Don Thomas of Atari.

Did you ever wonder what was the meaning of those cryptic collections of punctuation that you will see in online messages? :) SMILIE.TXT includes a list of all the smiley faces and variations.

---







Type 1 fonts available, from famous font foundries or even the public domain. Type 3 fonts are similar to Type 1s, but do not have hinting and are generally slower and consume more memory.

PostScript, and Encapsulated PostScript, have become the standard for data exchange on MS-DOS, Macintosh, and UNIX computer platforms. It is becoming very popular with Atari users as well, because of its flexibility, quality, and transferability for users who work on DOS or Macintosh computers or emulators who can now take files back and forth with their Atari.

Why CompoScript?

\*\*\*\*\*

CompoScript gives your Atari and your printer PostScript compatibility. At its most basic level of operation, it outputs PostScript files on most any printer. It also lets you adjust printing resolution, print (or preview) the image to the screen, convert PostScript and Encapsulated PostScript files to GEM Image and TIFF (so you can load these files into programs that don't support PostScript), adjust screen frequency and angle for grey scale (halftone) images, and edit font names and aliases, giving you font flexibility and preventing the problem found all too often with some PostScript interpreters which default to Courier when a file requests a font that isn't available.

CompoScript is the only PostScript interpreter for Atari computers that uses Type 1 fonts. Any Type 1 font can be used by CompoScript, simply by telling CompoScript where the font is located (a matter of a couple mouse clicks). It also includes 35 Type 1 fonts, which can be used with any application that uses Type 1 fonts!

You may already be using PostScript, or applications that can use it. We invite you to experience the power of PostScript through our handy upgrade program.

CompoScript runs on any Atari computer and has a retail price of \$349.95. Through August 31, 1992, users who own PostScript compatible software (such as UltraScript, PageStream, Avant Vector, and even Spectre GCR, among others) can purchase CompoScript for \$200.00. Simply return your original disk or, a photocopy of the disk or other proof of purchase with your order (we'll even return your disk).

COMPO Software  
104 Esplanade Avenue Ste. 121  
Pacifica California 94044  
415-355-0862

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> ST -> PORT STR Tech Notes  
The ST and Portfolio Talk to Each Other  
\*\*\*\*\*

Porting from the ST

MAKING THE ST AND PORTFOLIO TALK TO EACH OTHER  
=====

Bill Rayl

Probably the hardest thing an Atari ST user encounters as a new Portfolio user is getting the two computers talking to each other for the very first time.

The Portfolio has built-in software for file transfers via the Parallel Interface and the Parallel Interface comes with compatible transfer software to run on an IBM. Unfortunately, this method cannot be used on an ST, even under IBM emulation. The reason for this is that the ST's parallel port does not use a couple pins that are extremely important to this software.

So, how do you use your ST to transfer software to the Portfolio? Every article written on the subject in Atari publications so far tells you that you have four basic options:

Borrow someone's IBM and use it to transfer a telecommunications package to your Portfolio.

Buy the DOS Utilities card from Atari or an Atari dealer (retail price \$89.95). It has XTERM, the PD terminal package of choice for the Portfolio.

Find someone else who owns a Portfolio and has already gotten a terminal package onto it, then have them copy it to your RAM card. (Some people have even gone so far as to send their cards to Don Thomas at Atari to have him give them a copy of XTERM!)

Purchase Transport from Artisan Software (retail \$29.95) and use a null modem cable to transfer your terminal package to the Portfolio.

Of these options, Transport is the one I'd recommend most...if you want to use only those choices.

You see, all of those articles have missed the least expensive way to get a terminal package onto your Portfolio from your ST. In fact, some of those other articles state that what I'm going to tell you here is impossible.

Other than the cables you'd need to buy anyway to use the Portfolio with a modem, chances are you already have almost everything you need.

The Supplies

All the hardware you need is:

An ST

A Portfolio

The Serial Interface for the Portfolio

A modem cable and null modem adaptor (or just a null modem cable)

Your best option is to use a modem cable with 9-pin female connector on one end and 25-pin male connector on the other. Then, get a null modem adaptor with one 25-pin male end and a 25-pin female connector on the other end. This way, you can use the modem cable minus the null modem adaptor for normal telecommunications.

If all you can find is a modem cable with 9-pin AND 25-pin female connectors and a null modem cable with both male ends (these do seem to be the most prevalent), don't worry. Just pick up an RS232 Gender Changer with 25-pin female connections at both ends. Your local Radio Shack should carry all of these cables and adaptors.

The ST software you need is a terminal package that supports transfer rates of as low as 110 baud. This includes Flash! and many PD and Shareware packages. Chances are the ST terminal package you already use can handle this.

If not, there's another option. First, you need the Atari Control Panel (or any software giving you the capability to set your RS232 parameters). Since the Control Panel comes with every system Atari sells, it's a good bet you already have it, even if it's not installed. Then, you need a program that can send information out the serial port. I personally used EdHak (available from Clear Thinking) to test this, and it worked beautifully.

As for the files you are going to transfer to the Portfolio, you need the following:

HEXBIN.COM -- A utility to convert HEX files into BINARY runnable format. File size: 257 bytes. Checksum: 408D. (Checksums will be explained later.)

XTERM2.HEX -- HEX version of the XTERM2 telecommunications package for the Portfolio. Supports Xmodem and ASCII file transfers and lots more.

XTERM2.DOC -- Text documentation for XTERM2. You don't really need this file for the transfer to work, but you'll probably need it to use XTERM2 effectively. You can simply leave this doc file on your ST and read it from there or print it out for reference.

CHECKSUM.COM -- A small utility that gives you a Checksum corresponding to a given file. This file is optional to the process, but it helps. File size: 129 bytes. Checksum: 30A7.

These are all Public Domain files available from the Portfolio Forum on CompuServe (GO APORTFOLIO). If you're at all interested in the Portfolio, this is THE place to be. There are literally hundreds of programs for the Portfolio there...all just a quick download away.

The files are also available on this month's ST disk, in the ST2PORT.APP self-extracting archive.

#### The Starting Block

We'll assume you have all the files listed above somewhere on your ST. For this article, I'm going to describe doing the transfers using Flash. If you are using some other terminal package, you may need to slightly modify these directions.

Start with both the ST and Portfolio turned off. It helps if you have both machines fairly close together, so that you can type on them both without moving from where you are.

Plug the Serial Interface into the Portfolio. Attach the modem cable's 9-pin end to the Interface, plug one end of the null modem adaptor into the "normal" 25-pin end (adding on the Gender Changer if needed) and then plug the whole thing into the ST's serial port.

#### On the ST Side

Boot up the ST and run Flash. Set the baud rate in Flash to 110 baud (use Alt-B and click on the "110" button). While in the dialog box, make sure you have 8-bits, no parity and 1 stop bit set, as well. Click OK when done. If you want to watch the file's progress as it sends, you should also set Flash to Half Duplex (type Alt-P).

Now, we'll go set the ASCII transfer options. Press the right mouse button to switch to the GEM screen. Select "Ascii UL/DL" from the Edit drop down menu. At the dialog box, set LINE PAUSE to its maximum of 9 and turn everything else off EXCEPT METERING, which should be turned on. Click OK.

Go to the Upload drop down menu and select "File Ascii." Use the File Selector to find the file HEXBIN.COM. Click ONCE on the file, but don't send the file yet (i.e., select the file but don't press Return, don't click OK, and don't double-click the file!). Place the mouse pointer right above the OK button and leave it there.

#### On the Port Side

Boot up the Portfolio and get into Setup. Select "RS232 port..." from the menu. Set the Baud rate to 110, Parity to None, Data bits to 8 and Stop bits to 1.

Then, select Initialize! from the menu. If you get a "Communication error" message the first time, try Initializing the Interface again. If you repeatedly get this error, there's a serious problem with either the Interface or its connection to the Portfolio. Turn the Portfolio off, make sure the Interface is firmly connected and try Initializing it again.

Once the Interface is initialized, get to the DOS prompt (press Esc a couple times). At the DOS prompt, path to your RAM Card by typing A: and hitting a carriage return. Then, type the following (DON'T hit a carriage return after this yet!):

```
COPY AUX: HEXBIN.COM
```

Ready, Set...

The next step takes a little bit of timing on your part. Thankfully, you don't have to be too quick about this, though. What you need to do is press Return on the Portfolio and then click the ST's left mouse button (or press Return) BEFORE the Portfolio times out trying to copy from the Serial Interface. You'll know if the Portfolio times out you'll see an "Abort, Retry, Ignore" message on the Portfolio but the ST is still sending.

If the Portfolio does timeout, simply type 'A' to Abort, retype the COPY command (or press and hold the Fn key, followed by F3) and re-setup for the file transfer on the ST side. Then, try it again.

If everything goes well, the ST will finish sending while the Portfolio continues to display "AUX to A:\HEXBIN.COM." A few seconds later, you'll see;

Not ready error  
Abort, Retry, Ignore?

Yes, that's the same message you'll see if the Portfolio times out. That's why it's important that you can recognize the difference between success and failure here. If the ST is still sending and this error occurs, the transfer has failed. If the ST has finished sending and you see this error, everything is great.

Type 'A' to Abort and type DIR (followed by a Return). You should see the file HEXBIN.COM safely stored on the RAM Card with a file size of 257 bytes.

Round and Round

Repeat the above file transferring steps for XTERM2.HEX and, optionally, CHECKSUM.COM. You can use CHECKSUM to verify that the files transferred successfully. At the DOS prompt, simply type CHECKSUM, followed by the name of the file you want to test and a return. For instance, to test HEXBIN.COM, enter the following (with a carriage return) at the DOS prompt:

```
CHECKSUM HEXBIN.COM
```

Once you have both HEXBIN and XTERM2.HEX on the Portfolio, you're in the home stretch. At the DOS prompt, type the following line (with a carriage return at the end):

```
HEXBIN XTERM2.HEX
```

The HEXBIN program will now convert the hexadecimal values in XTERM2.HEX into a binary, executable program. The output file is automatically called RESULT.OUT. Type, again from DOS and with a return at the end:

```
REN RESULT.OUT XTERM2.COM
```

The new program file should be 2,898 bytes in length and have a checksum of 99F3. If not...try, try again.

That's All Folks!

You should now have a working terminal program on your Portfolio. Turn your Portfolio and ST back off (just to be safe) and disconnect the modem cable from the ST. Keep the Serial Interface connected to the Portfolio. Remove the null modem adaptor or null modem cable and use the normal modem cable to connect the Interface and Portfolio to your modem.

Boot up your Portfolio and go to Setup again. Reset your RS232 port to whatever your highest baud rate is on your modem -- XTERM2 can handle 9600 baud with no problem! You can skip Initializing the port, because XTERM2 will do it for you.

Now, get to the DOS prompt again, path to A: if necessary, and run XTERM2 by typing "XTERM2" (without the quotes) followed by a carriage return. You should be greeted with XTerm's copyright notice and mini help screen. From here on out, anything you type in is sent directly to your modem. If using

That's all there is to it, folks! It may seem a little convoluted, but it's basically no different than null modem file transfers to any other computer...except you're starting out with no transfer software on one of the machines.

Another important note is that you should not try this method with larger binary programs (like ACOM.EXE or even XTERM2.COM). It simply will not work, because these files contain control characters that stop the transfer dead. Things like Control-C, Control-D, etc. end the transfer. Play it safe and transfer the files listed in this article. Then, use your newly created XTERM2.COM to do Xmodem file transfers from then on. Of course, you can use this method at any time to transfer ASCII text files to and from your Portfolio.

Unicorn Publications  
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Ann Arbor, MI 48108  
(313) 973-8825

[NOTE: This article originally appeared in the July '92 issue of Atari Interface magazine. It can be freely reprinted in non-commercial user group newsletters, so long as this header appears with the reprint. All other publications must first obtain permission (written or verbal) before reprinting this article.]

Epson Action Laser II

by Doyle C. Helms

The Epson Action Laser II (forthwith known as EAL II) is a fine compliment to the Epson printer family. This laser printer will emulate not only the HPLJ II Plus printers, but also the "old" reliable Epson dot matrix printers such as the LQ and FX series of printers. If your software doesn't have a HPLJ driver, you can always fall back on the LQ/FX modes.

The EAL II is very user friendly when it comes to configuring the printer to the users specifications. The user can easily set-up the printer to meet the need of just about ANY print job requirement. The user accesses the set-up options via a LCD display panel. The EAL II is driven by a 68000 CPU with a clock rate of 14.13 MHz. The EAL II, in most cases comes standard with .5 megabyte memory. Some distributors market a unit with 2.5 megabytes memory already installed by Epson. The memory upgrade process is very simple. Two screws hold a side panel which when removed reveal a memory board that the user simply unplugs from the printer and then plugs in the memory chips for the configuration they desire. The memory chips are of the common garden variety DRAM chips rated at 80ns.

The EAL II can hold up to 5.5 megabytes RAM. I currently own the EAL II with 2.5 meg RAM and I have found no shortage of memory for my needs as of yet. I have worked easily with 750K IMG files plus text and the printer seems to be as fast as if it was working with a normal page of ASCII. Granted the computer process time for the page is increased when working with files this large, but the time would be the same even if I were using a dot matrix printer. I have used an Epson LQ 24 pin printer for the past couple of years and I find the printout time is by far much faster with the EAL II far faster than with the LQ series. Let me drop an example or two on you here.

Calamus 1.09 printing a font example CDK file containing an entire character set took 44 seconds from the time I clicked on PRINT to the time the sheet finished rolling out of the printer. That time included the time for Calamus to calculate the page for transmission to the printer. The actual time of the EAL II print out from when Calamus finished calculating(drawing) the page internally to the roll out of the finished document was 24 seconds! As far as ASCII print time is concerned, one document of 11077 bytes (4 pages) consumed 45 seconds from the PRINT command at the DeskTop to the 4th page of the document. Another ASCII doc of 15K (6 pages) consumed 1 minute and 1 second. The printer is rated at 6 pages per minute and that is what it delivers!

The print quality of the EAL II is superb! Black is BLACK and the gray scale capabilities are outstanding! The EAL II comes with 14 FONTS and 16 SYMBOL sets regardless of the memory configuration you choose. The EAL II manual lists 66 font cartridges currently available. The majority of these font carts are the HP type. I'm sure there are more since the manual was printed. The EAL II also has a IDENTITY CARD SLOT which allows the user to further enable the printer to emulate other printers. One example given in the manual is the HP 7475A/7440A Plotter! I have confirmed (through Epson) that a Postscript card is available also!!

Another interesting feature of the EAL II is that more than one computer system can be used on the EAL II. Two computers can be connected to the EAL II and they can be using different emulation modes



a subjective matter but we think you'll agree. Write ON is the standard version, and That's Write is the professional version.

Write ON has all the standard features you've come to expect from a word processor - yet its many unique features make it stand out. Take, for example, font and printer support. Thus far there have been two types of word processors - text processors, that use your printer's built-in fonts for printing (generally the fastest method, though you can't change fonts within a document) and graphic text processors, which can use many different fonts and styles, but typically are much slower. Write ON lets you use both, in the same document! Even a single word may be made of printer resident, downloaded, and graphic fonts - even if it's proportional and justified - all the while completely WYSIWYG. Write ON's output speed and quality, with either font type, is sure to impress. Write ON supports all of the fonts included with most printers, and gives you access to unlimited numbers and varieties of typefaces with graphic fonts. It comes with at least ten fonts, depending on your printer type.

What type of graphic fonts can Write ON use? Write ON uses standard GEM bitmap fonts, like those that you might use with GDOS. However, Write ON runs without any memory-grabbing, system-slowing AUTO programs. Additionally, with our C-Font program installed in your system, you can use Calamus format outline fonts with Write ON!

Write ON uses an extremely powerful and efficient system for document style and formatting - paragraph tags. Say you're doing a document that's left justified in Times 12 font except for headings, which are centered Helvetica 14. After typing in the whole document, you decide that headings should be Avant Garde - simply change the font in paragraph tag "Headlines" to Avant Garde. Of course, Headlines is just an example - you create and edit the tags, with options like justification, line and paragraph separation, style, font, etc.

COMPO has designed a protocol that allows Write ON to communicate with desk accessories. Write ON is infinitely expandable via these accessories (which, like everything else in Write ON, can be activated and controlled via the keyboard). Included with Write ON are a snapshot utility and Key Show, which displays the keyboard and where characters (in the currently selected font) are mapped to the keyboard. No more hunting for special characters! If you're not happy with the location of a particular character, simply remap it with the included keyboard editor. Also included are a font editor and a Signum-to-Write ON font converter.

Write ON takes standard word processing features and improves them. Check these out :

- Unlimited definable macros, be it program functions or text abbreviations - whatever.
- Edit multiple files on screen at the same time
- Cut/Copy/Move block, with six buffers, including the Atari Clipboard for transfer with other programs!
- Page, line, picture, word, and stroke count; Available memory, too.
- Automatic installation
- Headers/Footers, and widow/orphan control
- Pictures may be shown or hidden individually and scaled to any

resolution, including that of the current printer!

- Built-in mail merge, using industry standard comma delimited files
- All standard text styles including Double Underline and Strike Through
- Left, Right, Decimal, and Center tabs
- Display font sample on screen
- Hyphenation, either prompted or automatic, which can be configured to your liking
- Optional password protection for any document
- Optional automatic save at user defined intervals

That's Write, the professional version, adds even more features to Write ON :

- More fonts included, even Symbols, Greek and Cyrillic!
- Spell checker with American English dictionary of 110,000 words. We think it's the best spell checker available, period. Even corrects capitalization and accent errors!
- Automatic Index and Table of Contents generation
- Outliner included - structure your document with up to 8 levels
- Footnotes/Endnotes
- Chaptering - if your document is too large to fit in memory, you can break it into chapters, for easy editing and automatic footnote/endnote updating!
- Multiple columns
- Table drawing

## THAT'S WRITE 2

-----

Version 2 of That's Write, a major upgrade, will be shipping in July. It adds many valuable features to That's Write :

### New User Interface

\*\*\*\*\*

Up to 9 windows which can be resized from any corner and have optional scroll bars.

### New Accessories

\*\*\*\*\*

A new Macro Editor allows you to see currently defined macros and edit them. Also new is a calculator that passes results directly to That's Write.

## Fonts

\*\*\*\*\*

That's Write 2 will read compressed fonts! Created by C-Font or Fontkit Plus, compressed fonts are typically a third of their uncompressed size. Saves hard disk users precious storage space and lets floppy users store more fonts which can be loaded faster.

## Print Preview

\*\*\*\*\*

Print preview on screen, with preview control. View a full page or full size (1:1) preview of your printed document.

## Command System

\*\*\*\*\*

The new command system gives extensive new powers. Mathematical functions allow automatic computing of an invoice, calculations on dates, automatic paragraph numbering, and graphing.

## Online Help

\*\*\*\*\*

Detailed online help at the press of a key.

## Improved paragraph tagging

\*\*\*\*\*

That's Write has had the most usable paragraph tagging of any ST document processor. That's Write 2 now has even more options and functions in paragraph and page layouts, including a Remark layout that displays on screen but doesn't affect printout or formatting.

## Outline Fonts

\*\*\*\*\*

That's Write 2 includes C-Font, which runs as a desk accessory enabling you to include outline fonts in your document. Outline fonts may be scaled to any size without loss of resolution. C-Font uses the standard Calamus format outline fonts, so there are hundreds of fonts available, both in the public domain and from professional font suppliers. Five .CFN fonts are included with That's Write 2 to get you started.

-----  
Write ON retails for \$99.95. We'd like you to give Write ON a shot, so we're making a special upgrade offer :

Through August 31, 1992, you can upgrade to Write ON from any word processor for \$30.00.

If you later decide that you need That's Write, no problem. You can upgrade to That's Write and transfer all of your Write ON files. That's Write 1.5 retails for \$199.95. Upgrades from Write ON cost \$100.00. If you would like to go ahead and try That's Write 1.5, you may upgrade from any other word processor for \$130.00.

That's Write 2 will be shipping imminently. Retail price is \$259.95. Copies of That's Write 1.52 currently shipping include a special voucher for a free upgrade to That's Write 2.

Upgrades to That's Write 2 cost \$60.00 from That's Write 1.5, and \$160.00 from Write ON.

To upgrade, simply return your original disk or, a photocopy of the top cover of your manual, the original disk with the serial number

showing, if possible, with your order.

COMPO Software Corp.  
104 Esplanade Avenue Suite. 121  
Pacifica California 94044  
Tel 415-355-0862  
Fax 415-355-0869

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CONNECTICUT ATARIFEST '92

NEWS IN BRIEF FROM  
CONNECTICUT ATARIFEST '92

FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION

HARTFORD, Conn. (July 3, 1992)

THE CLOCK IS TICKING...as the EarlyBird

Pre-Registration Discount offer for Connecticut AtariFest '92 (CAF '92) (up to \$2 off per person on tickets) expires in a few days. All forms must be mailed with a check or money order by midnight July 9. See the library for a copy for the form. THAT'S A GUIDE TO THE LINKS, NOT THE LYNX... Computer programmer-turned-publisher Brian Harvey will be among the guests demonstrating special talents at the Hartford area show. Harvey, who recently published 'Golf in Connecticut,' a guide to public golf courses throughout the Nutmeg State, will examine the rewards and pitfalls of self-publishing. The avid golfer boasted few desktop publishing (DTP) skills before undertaking this project, but produced a data-rich booklet that is very strong on graphics. B. Dalton, Waldenbooks and Barnes & Noble are among the retail chains distributing the regional guide for Harvey, who brought it to life on his trusty Atari ST using Calamus, dBMAN and other off-the-shelf programs.

LATEST EXHIBITOR SIGNED  
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Speaking of desktop publishing, Connecticut AtariFest '92 is pleased to announce that Goldleaf Publishing Inc., maker of Wordflair II, Retouche, the Sherlook optical character recognition system, Didot Line Art and other products, will appear in Hartford. Goldleaf is a part of Atari's Professional Systems Group, the Direct to Press division specializing in high-quality publishing systems.

## KEEP AWAY FROM THE WINDOWS

\*\*\*\*\*

Local Atari enthusiasts will grab a share of the spotlight at CAF '92 when Ken Kittredge of Wethersfield, Conn. based Mach 1, a Korg M1 Users Group, demonstrates the M1. The group, which boasts a growing number of Korg T-series keyboard owners, has been meeting at the nearby Music Exchange on the last Wednesday of each month, and has mostly disk-based libraries for both voices and sequences. Members receive 6 newsletters a year that help them get the most out of their synthesizers. Kittredge, who works as a bridge engineer, admits that his playing skills don't rival those of a professional musician, but he still enjoys being 'an audio adventurer by night.'

## POCKET PROTECTOR GANG:

\*\*\*\*\*

WE'RE ONE STEP AHEAD OF YOU' When Atari Explorer Online hyped the scheduled CAF '92 dinner-dance (Saturday, August 15) in a recent issue, former AEO editors John Jainschigg and Peter Donoso (also professional musicians; Donoso is CAF '92 music coordinator), who plan to perform in the unique Atari 'jam session' elaborated:

"Yeah, man .. since the release of our album, 'Welcome to the (Not Just a Game) Machine,' last year, we feel like we've lost touch with the small club and user-group show audience," said Jainschigg. "So we thought it would be a good idea to rediscover our roots, do a small tour of Atari shows in the Bridgeport area, and like ... party until everybody's ears bleed."

Mr. Donoso concurred: "People hear Atari music systems in the hands of really competent, famous musicians, all the time." He said. "We think it's important, however, for audiences to realize that Atari computers, plus very large amplifiers, can even make essentially talent-free, chopless blighters like ourselves sound good! It's remarkable what an algorithmic composer, a decent sequencer, plus lots and lots of wattage can do!"

Brian Gockley, organizer of the AtariFest, was quoted as saying: "All I wanted was a little dancing. That's all. There's nothing to do, at night, at these AtariFests. So I asked them, and now, all of a sudden, they've got a truck, and an entourage, and I've got security problems, and they're demanding backstage, full-service catering and a suite at the hotel. I don't know what's going to happen. I ... I'm not responsible. No further comment."

The article precipitated various anti-computerist slurs on electronic message boards: 'Atarians, Dancing? You should come just to watch!' 'Computer "Nerds" dancing? Hope you have lots of accident insurance,' they said. To which we reply: Hey, why do you think we moved the show to Hartford? IN THE WORKS Organizers are feverishly working to assemble show activities for all members of the Atari community. In addition to focus areas that include Desktop Publishing, 8-bit and MIDI activities, CAF '92 expects to offer:

- \* LYNX CONTESTS - We're getting the word out to dealers throughout the region that we'd like to see their best Lynx competitors in a head-to-head battle of the Titans, with lots of prizes on the line.
- \* LEARNING BY DOING - In cooperation with participating DTP specialists and area educators, Connecticut AtariFest '92 will publish

student-produced newsletters on both days of the show. As pupils gather news about the show, they'll learn the basics of editing, page layout and graphic design from some of the leaders of the industry. And they'll be demonstrating how Atari computers can capture the immediacy of an event.

- \* ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS - A local affiliate of the American Radio Relay League, the international network of amateur (ham) radio operators that is headquartered in Connecticut, is expected to demonstrate gizmos for the Atarian with some electronics know-how. Learn how to set up a bulletin board that bypasses phone lines; send and receive faxes via radio. LAST CALL We're still looking for a few good men, women and children to serve as exhibitors/demonstrators, volunteers, blurb writers, go-fers, flyer printers, telephoners ... you name it. If you have a particular computing or non-computing talent, contacts or resources that would help the show soar, or to get more information about CAF '92, contact:

Brian Gockley, Chairman  
Connecticut AtariFest '92  
GENie: B.GOCKLEY  
CompuServe: 75300,2514  
18 Elmwood Avenue  
Bridgeport, CT 06605  
(203) 332-1721

Doug Finch, Vice Chairman  
Connecticut AtariFest '92  
GENie: D.FINCH7  
CompuServe: 76337,1067  
46 Park Avenue  
Old Greenwich, CT 06870  
(203) 637-1034

or,

Scan the Connecticut AtariFest '92 topic on GEnie (Atari ST Roundtable, Category 11, Topic 14, and other Atari RTs on GEnie) as well as ST, 8-bit, Vendor and Portfolio forums of CompuServe.

A S P E C I A L   H O L I D A Y   G R E E T I N G  
HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY (JULY 4TH)

to

Independent-Minded, All-American Atarians on this festive weekend.  
Enjoy yourselves, but remember, especially you mobile Portfolio users  
out there...DON'T DOWNLOAD & DRIVE!

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> MNET! STR Spotlight
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MBBS GOES NETWORKING!

MICHTRON BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM  
THE MNET IS BORN!

by Dana P. Jacobson

I started running a MichTron BBS almost 5 years ago. The first version that I used was 2.0x and finally 3.0 came out and I, like many others, have been running the current version for quite some time. During that time, MichTron has changed hands, and MBBS's author, Tim Purves, has "semi-retired" from the Atari platform. Tim can be found now working on GENIE's navigation program, Aladdin. He still owns the rights to MBBS, but so far, hasn't chosen to upgrade the software.

There are a few features that most people who run MBBS would like to see added, but it may not happen anytime soon. New transfer protocols and a better message editor are just a couple of items. Another is the capability to network, a feature many of the available BBS software packages contain. It's a shame to see people switch software, just to gain a few features lacking in their current software. It's a shame that a lot of work gets tossed out and the process starting all over again with something new.

Well, one of the desired features has been achieved recently. Yes, networking is now possible thanks to an innovative MBBS SysOp from Texas. Jeff Wells, who has published two MichTron Command Language (MCL) articles in Atari Interface Magazine, has written some MCL code and a MBBS interactive program to allow MichTron systems to network with each other.

So, what does all of this do? Donald Zabawa, the SysOp of "Buffaloe Village BBS" in Philadelphia recently sent a brief description of what MNET does. It's appropriate that we let him describe it:

WHAT IS MNET?  
"\*\*\*\*\*"

MNET is a new addition to the MichTron BBS system that allows your messages to be sent to other MichTron BBS's throughout the country. The MNET program was written by Jeff Wells of Killeen, Texas and is available as shareware to any SysOp running MichTron BBS.

The MNET Message area is a series of message bases that is completely separate from the normal message areas; and has it's own message numbering system. However, once in the MNET area, the messages can be read, replied to, or post new messages and more, the same as the normal message areas. Just choose any option from the MNET menu, or the options that follow each message as you read them.

Remember that your messages will be sent to BBS's all over the country and read by a great many callers outside your normal calling area. So please use discretion in all your messages.

As more and more BBS's become part of the MNET system additional message areas will be added to cover topics of specialized interests (Technical Help, Hobbies, Classifieds, User Groups, Programming, etc.). The list of possible subjects is endless. As this list grows, not all participating BBS's will have all topics available. The specific interests of individual BBS callers will determine the message topics each BBS will have available. This will also allow a local area, with more than one MichTron BBS, to have different types of messages on each BBS for their many users that call all of them.

With more people to read, and respond to these messages, there should be a lot of interest in the MNET section, so watch for it to grow fast. This will be a great opportunity to ask your questions, or express opinions; and receive a response from fellow BBS users from almost

anywhere in the country. This will make MNET even more valuable to you, the caller.

So, how do you set it up; and how does it work? Well, it's really simple, especially if you have some experience with writing or editing MCL code. Even the least experienced SysOp can manage it with a little patience (like me!). The shareware package comes with a number of files. First of all, there will be two CONFER files written in MCL, both uncompiled in case you wish to make some changes to fit your needs. There are also two patch files which you need to edit, and "paste" into your main menu file (main.m). One of the patch files must be broken down so that its first two command lines goes `_first_` in your main.m file. This must be down in order to work properly (more on this later). The rest of this patch, and the other, just get entered (or cut and paste, and add) to your menu. Another file is the MNET program, written in GFA Basic. Other files included are your configuration, a system personalized TAG line, a node list, ARC.TTP, FZDSXFER.TTP, and two documentation files. The docs aren't commercial quality, but simple enough to follow.

Once you have all of your code finished and compiled, you're ready to set up the others so that the MNET program will read them and proceed accordingly. The configuration file is a simple text file which, specifically, sets up your BBS system configuration, where each MNET-specific file is located, your BBS name, SysOp name, Node number, and the name and numbers for the MBBS system which you plan to network with. A few other lines complete this text. The node list is simply the list of available MBBS systems to network with, but the text is laid out in a specific format so the MNET program can read it properly.

Place all of the resulting files into your system according to your configuration files. I must repeat, do so exactly as you set it up in your configuration file or the program (not the BBS) won't run properly, if at all (I learned how to de-bug that real quickly, with help!). If all went well, you should be able to initiate the BBS system as you would normally. But now, you have a separate area within your system that contains the MNET Message area!! This is like adding an all new additional message base to your system. You can read, reply, and enter messages as you now can in the regular message bases. There's only one Conference active at the moment, but Jeff is almost ready with an update which will include up to 200+ message bases, if you want that many! Also to be included is the means to send non-message files as well. All messages that originate from each MNET system will be "tagged" with an 'origin' notation so other systems will know where the messages originated. To, From, Subject, Conference, and Message numbers are all saved just like the normal message base, as well.

The MNET program is the heart of the networking system, as this program allows you to send and receive messages and files between systems. Here's what the MNET program does:

- o Reads all configuration files and system-specific "key" file.
- o Locates any new mail packets received at your system, un-ARC them, and place them in your MNET message area(s).
- o Archives all outgoing message packets.
- o Autodials your Hub system.
- o Auto-logon sequence.
- o Automatically downloads current mail packets from your Hub system.
- o Automatically uploads mail packets from your system to the

Hub system.

- o Automatically logs you off the Hub system.
- o Processes these new mail packets and places them in the message area.
- o Performs maintenance, deletes old mail packets (over 30 days, on Hub systems only).
- o Displays the amount of mail packets and messages processed during that call, and the amount of time that you were online.
- o Processes and saves a new node listing, if available.
- o Then you manually bring the BBS back online, all done within minutes depending on the size of mail packets.

So as you can see, the MNET program does quite a bit, in relatively little time. Improvements are ongoing, and Jeff Wells has provided MBBS SysOps with a lot of help, both online and voice.

MNET is relatively new, so systems running it are still small in numbers. Presently, there are 15-20 boards running MNET, and more getting it set up. Jeff hopes to get the word out to existing MichTron boards that networking is now available. Hopefully, as the word gets spread, more SysOps will join in.

A little Jeff Wells biography: Written numerous MBBS add-on programs, initially, "NFL Yesterday" which he wrote first for FoReM BBS software and ported it over to MBBS. He's also written other games for MBBS, such as "Space Empire Elite" (similar to the one seen on FoReM and Turbo systems; "ProduceM" (be a big-time movie producer and watch the box office numbers climb); "Perrenlands" (a D&D game); "Empires" (create your ship and work with others within your empire to destroy other empires); and "MCL Baseball" (his best to-date). He's also written a Doors program which will allow you to execute other programs by editing just one file; and "BBS Crash", a hard drive crash simulation which all of his new users can expect to experience when they first log on!

If you're interested in learning more about MichTron BBS, or MNET, contact Jeff Wells on his Lone STar BBS at (817) 690-1993. Or, contact me via E-Mail on Delphi (DPJ), CIS (71051,3327 ), or GENie (D.JACOBSON2). If you call MichTron boards and your SysOp isn't yet aware of MNET, mention it to him/her. With a little time, the MNET can expand and provide a great exchange of information and conversation!! Join the MNET today!

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> STReport CONFIDENTIAL "Rumors Tidbits Predictions Observations Tips"  
"\*\*\*\*\*"

- London, UK  
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ROBERT KATZ LEAVES ATARI UK

According to Gary Lawman, Atari UK, Robert Katz has left Atari to go with Electronic Arts in the UK. Katz, well known by many UK Atarians, is

superceded by Alistair Bodin.

- Redmond, WA  
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#### ATARI WITHDRAWS NINTENDO APPEAL

Nintendo of America Inc., Nintendo Co. Ltd. and Atari Corp. announced Wednesday that Atari withdrew its appeal of the verdict and judgment Nintendo was awarded in Atari's antitrust case against Nintendo. The jury in Federal Court cleared Nintendo on May first of charges by Atari that Nintendo had illegally tried to corner the home video game market in the USA during the late 1980s. Nintendo will not proceed to recover court costs from Atari.

- Cheshire, UK  
-----

#### UK FORUM SYSOP KILLED IN CRASH

David Moore, UKFORUM SYSOP, was killed in the crash of a restored, vintage British Spitfire. David worked for Rolls Royce as a pilot, and at weekends flew their Spitfire at air shows. Today, while flying the Spitfire at The Woodford Airshow, the wing tip touched the ground and the plane burst into flames. David was a member of the UKFORUM Sysop team and his messages from around the world will have been seen by most members. David was also a regular at all the UKFORUM meets and many members will therefore know him personally.

- Columbus, OH  
-----

#### COMPUSERVE OFFERS SHAREWARE REGISTRATION PROGRAM

CIS has started a program for the benefit of shareware authors to help them get more of the registration fees. Basically, if an author has his programs on one of the CIS forums and supports the program online, he may register with CompuServe's SW registration program. Users who wish to pay the SW registration fee can have it added to their regular CompuServe monthly bill. CIS will collect all the registrations and forward the monies after deducting a small handling fee. The idea is to make it easy for folks to pay the shareware fee (without having to write out a separate check, address an envelope, mail the envelope, etc) the authors will benefit by more registrations that will outweigh the small handling fee.

To date, at least one author of a commercial program has mentioned that he's going to convert it to shareware just so that he can participate in the program. He said the lack of local atari dealers and the difficulties of dealing with distributors, combined with the piracy he has suffered from, makes the CIS shareware plan more viable than the commercial route.

- Sunnyvale, CA  
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#### JOHN B. JAINSCHIGG TO DO ANOTHER ISSUE

Atari Explorer magazine will enjoy the expert leadership and guidance of John B. Jainschigg for at least one more issue. Jainschigg, acclaimed for having brought Atari Explorer to "a cut above" from almost certain extinction, was recently reported to have left the position of Editor.

This announcement, when received throughout the Atari community, generated shock waves, world wide, almost immediately. Hopefully, Atari will see the error of its ways and make every possible effort to keep Jainschigg at the helm of Explorer. News of Jainschigg's temporary return to Explorer, was followed shortly thereafter with News that Tina Brown editor of Vanity Fair, was drafted to be Editor of the world famous New Yorker Magazine.

- Bellevue, WA

GEMULATOR VIDEO TELLS ALL

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Darek Mihocka, Branch Always Software, is confident the GEMULATOR will become the emulator of note in the PC world. With Gemulator, you can run your favorite Atari ST, MS-Dos and Windows software on the same PC. Gemulator includes a card which allows the user to plug in any version of TOS, from 1.0 to the latest 2.6. Two versions of TOS may be plugged in at once to facilitate greater compatibility with certain ST software. Amazingly, a user is able to run two different ST programs at the same time, each using a different version of TOS and running in a different screen resolution. The video is quite informative and most certainly establishes the fact that GEMULATOR is here to stay. Gemulator can be ordered for a special introductory price of 199.00 until August 31, 1992.

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> STR Mail Call  
"....."

"...a place for the readers to be heard"

STReport's MailBag  
"....."

From CIS

#: 33296 S8/Hot Topics  
02-Jul-92 16:45:21  
Sb: #AEO #5 comments  
Fm: SYSOP\*Ron Luks 76703,254  
To: All

I feel that I must provide some additional details for those of you who have read Bob Brodie's comments in the latest issue of Atari Explorer Online. While chastising me personally for not going along with his desires for private EMAIL responses, Bob went on to call the response he has received from CompuServe members as "pathetic."

I have encouraged our membership to respond to the online support survey in public and in "the sunshine" rather than via EMAIL because I believe it is the most honest way to tally your feelings and get an accurate count. I have also received a fair number of EMAIL comments, all of which will be forwarded to Bob at the conclusion of the survey. The results obtained have included not only specific responses, but many offered additional comments, criticisms, and suggestions regarding online

support.

Since these comments and votes have not yet been presented to Mr. Brodie (as I indicated to him in a telephone conversation last week), one can only wonder what he hopes to accomplish for himself or the Atari Corporation with these disparaging comments. He has clearly expressed the preference for those "wonderful" messages of personal support he has received from GENie in his column. While every member is clearly encouraged to send a private communication to Mr. Brodie (or anyone else for that matter) if they feel it necessary or desirable or simply inappropriate for public posting, I cannot in good conscience tell our membership that they MUST respond in this way where the true totals and results will not be visible to the general public. However, members wishing to respond to Bob's EMAIL number at 70007,3240 may certainly do so.

I am quite confident, seeing the large number of public responses posted in the forum, that these, taken in conjunction with any private EMAIL, will show the CompuServe audience to be significant and worth the attentions of the Atari Corporation. No matter what the published outcome of Mr. Brodie's personal survey may be, I promise the membership here that I will continue to pursue the online support of the Atari Corporation for the benefit of our worldwide audience of loyal Atari users.

Ron Luks  
Manager  
Atari Forums on CompuServe

#: 66281 S1/Forum Business  
02-Jul-92 17:02:33  
Sb: #66264-#Online support survey  
Fm: SYSOP\*Ron Luks 76703,254  
To: carl barron 75066,3204 (X)

I've posted a formal reply to the comments in AEO #5 over in AtariArts (where the magazine is made available in Lib 15).

To be honest, I didn't want to dignify the comments with a reply at all. I personally have a pretty thick skin and can let comments like this slide off my back, but I received a number of EMAILs, as well as public messages about his editorial (or column or whatever it should be called) from our members who found the comments offensive.

Although the magazine carries the (c)opyright of Atari, I'd like to let everyone know that this is the first time I've heard words like "pathetic" used in this context. We have had (in the past) and are currently enjoying a very good relationship with most everyone at Atari Corp., from the top of the ladder (Sam) on down the line. I find the folks at Atari to be hardworking in a very tough environment and economy, and most are working overtime to insure the success of the new machine.

I do not believe these comments are representative of the feeling of most of the people at Atari and I don't want the members here to feel that Atari Corp is turning a deaf ear to them. I consider this to be an unfortunate episode and a poor choice of words and would hope to see more care exercised in the future, and let it drop so that we can all concentrate on more positive efforts.

These constant detractions from our efforts to support the Atari computer line are a waste of valuable energies that could be better

directed.

As always, thanks for your support.  
Ron Luks

#: 65946 S1/Forum Business  
27-Jun-92 18:08:27  
Sb: #65780-Online support survey  
Fm: Ray Parnell (UK) 70374,1016  
To: Bob Brodie [ATARI] 70007,3240

Bob,

I don't think that anyone is suggesting that Atari gives up or in any way reneges on it's contract with Genie. I raised the point that in Atari's latest annual report, the majority of sales seem to be taking place outside North America. The interests of those users is better served by CIS than Genie as there is no easy access to Genie from Europe.

I would not wish to pre-empt the results of the survey, but most people would probably be happy to see a more regular Atari presence on CIS, even if you do not have the time to appear yourself.

I hope that an 'amicable' solution can be achieved.

Ray.

From the FNET

Conf : STReport Online  
Msg# : 20787/20895 Lines: 15 Read: 41  
Sent : Jun 26, 1992 at 3:51 PM  
Recv : Jun 28, 1992  
To : Ralph Mariano  
From : Chris B. Herting at Fnet Node 556, Suitland-MD  
Subj : Re: <20710> ATARI EXPLORER - THE HARD

Well, you pretty much summed the whole thing up. Since Theives Guild has not been receiving messages from the Z\*Net Conf. since last February, I have not been able to see their side of the story. But the bottom line is, there really should be no fighting. I think it is great, and I am sure many users will agree with me, that you are choosing to ignore Kovacs and Brodie. That shows some class, it also shows who is more grown up. I hope you do continue to keep ST-Report as the "Honest Online Magazine". STR may print rumors from time to time, but at least they tell the truth about Atari. I would have to say your magazine is the first to finally stand up to Atari and tell them off. I would say more or less, STR represents MOST of the userbase. Z\*Net represents Atari. They do not care about the U.S. market, and they do not care about their customers. Sometimes you have to wonder if they really even care about themselves. I was told yesterday by a FORMER Atari user that Atari dropped the TT line. Is any of this true??

Editor Note:

Chris about the TT being discontinued, STReport has no information at all about Atari doing so. To go further, we at STR have tried to be as truthful as humanly possible with our readers through the years, this is our ultimate goal. Apparently it shows, our readership has not faltered a bit. In fact, it has grown. As for znet, Ron Kovacs has been doing his

best to bring forth a publication that appeals to his readers, there is nothing wrong with that. Its true that lately, a perception on the part of many Atarians is that znet is no more, since it was absorbed by Atari's AEO, but I find that to hard to believe. ZNET will be back, once again \_independent and free\_ of any undue internal influences. That's the right way and only way it should be.. for \_any\_ publication. Especially those publications which cover the industry as does STReport and ZNET.

From GENie

Category 1, Topic 2  
Message 118 Fri Jul 03, 1992  
D.ELLIS16 [\* AeroStar \*] at 11:17 EDT

I too sent a GE-mail, But will also cast my vote here. Stay here on GENie. I am an American serviceman stationed in Japan. This (GENie) is just about my only informational source for Atari information.

\*\*\* STAY HERE, Please \*\*\*

\*AeroStar\*

The JELLY-BOWL is at it again...

Category 18, Topic 6  
Message 1 Sun Jun 28, 1992  
J.EIDSV00G1 [CodeHead] at 08:48 EDT

I was awakened about 40 minutes ago (5AM) by the biggest earthquake my wife and I have felt in the sixteen years we've lived in California. In fact I just felt another aftershock as I typed the last sentence (with fingers poised over the power switch to protect the hard drives).

No reports are in yet, but it seemed like this one should be well over 6.0. One interesting thing about earthquakes (wow, another aftershock), is how long it takes for information to come in about them.

This one started with rapid shaking for about ten seconds followed by long, slow swaying for another 40 seconds or so, although it seemed like about 2 minutes. <grin>

We have 3 house guests, two from Arizona and one from Minnesota. It's nice that they could have something memorable to bring back with them.

You LA eyewitness reporter,  
John Eidsvoog

From GENie

The unrest over, the long overdue, FSMGDOS continues..

Category 14, Topic 18  
Message 25 Mon Jun 29, 1992  
A.FASOLDT [Al Fasoldt] at 00:04 EDT

I suggest that all of us who believed Atari when the official line was that FSM GDOS was ready except for the packaging should gather together

and suspend our belief in this latest reason for a delay.

Since it is now clear that FSM GDOS was \*not\* being delayed because of packaging problems, someone at Atari was less than honest about the subject. That's not good, folks. It's baaaad. It shows what little respect Atari's senior management has for all of us.

It also means the same people who failed to tell the story straight before are now telling a different story now (legal troubles? With nothing to show as proof?), and I, for one, do not believe we are being told the truth. Again.

Al

Category 14, Topic 18

Message 26 Mon Jun 29, 1992

R.NOAK at 02:06 EDT

I suppose that it couldn't be that the packaging was a hold up and then this legal thing cropped up. Nah, that couldn't be it. Atari must be lying to us all. Sheesh. Come on. There are hundreds of reasons why software does not reach market when it is supposed to. Ask Nathan at ISD about the delay for Calamus SL. Ask Softlogik about delays for PageStream. At times it seemed that neither program would ever make it to market, but both arrived. Late, yes, but, as the old cliché goes, "Better late than never."

I prefer to believe that these delays will perhaps give us a better, more bug-free FSM GDOS. As it is, FSM works with Touch Up, Easy Draw, Silhouette, and others that I can't remember off-hand. It is available now from GoldLeaf.

Call my attitude "pollyanna-ish" if you like, but I have some faith in "Atari's senior management". If my company were involved with legal problems, I doubt that I would discuss them in a national forum either for fear of prejudicing any case I might have.

Randy @ Southlake, Inc.

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